

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 75 (canceled)

Claim 76 (currently amended) A method of in-line, continuous production of sterile prefilled syringe bodies for medical purposes, the method comprising the steps of:

- forming a plurality of syringe bodies by injection molding;
- arranging the plurality of syringe bodies in a predetermined order on a transfer mechanism;
- transferring the plurality of syringe bodies along the transfer mechanism to a sterilizing location;
- sterilizing the plurality of syringe bodies by providing a source of electron beam irradiation and irradiating the plurality of syringe bodies with a predetermined dose of the electron beam irradiation;
- transferring the plurality of sterilized syringe bodies [to] into a sterile environment while maintaining the plurality of syringe bodies in a sterilized condition, said sterile environment comprising an enclosed isolator class 100 environment;
- providing a fluid substance within the sterile environment;
- introducing the fluid substance into the plurality of syringe bodies while the plurality of syringe bodies are within the sterile environment; and
- sealing the fluid substance within the plurality of syringe bodies while the plurality of syringe bodies are within the sterile environment.

Claim 77. (original) The method of claim 76 wherein the transfer mechanism includes a conveyor belt.

Claim 78. (original) The method of claim 77 wherein no human intervention is required.

Claim 79. (canceled)

Claim 80 (currently amended) The method of claim [79] 76 wherein the predetermined dose of the electron beam irradiation is between 10 kGy and 50 kGy.

Claim 81. (original) The method of claim 80 wherein the predetermined dose of the electron beam irradiation is 25 kGy.

Claim 82. (currently amended) The method of claim [80] 76 wherein the introducing the fluid substance into the plurality of syringe bodies while the plurality of syringe bodies are within the sterile environment step is performed within six days of the sterilizing the plurality of the syringe bodies step.

Claim 83. (original) The method of claim 82 wherein the fluid substance is a sterile water for injection.

Claim 84. (original) The method of claim 83 wherein the sterile water for injection has a pH of solution between 5.0 and 7.0.

Claim 85. (original) The method of claim of claim 84 further comprising the steps of:
transferring the plurality of syringe bodies from the sterile environment;
storing the plurality of syringe bodies for a predetermined period of time; and
maintaining a pH of solution of the sterile water for injection within a range of 5.0-7.0.

Claim 86 (currently amended) The method of claim [80] 76 wherein the introducing the fluid substance into the plurality of syringe bodies while the plurality of syringe bodies are within the sterile environment step is performed immediately after the sterilizing the plurality of syringe bodies step.

Claim 87 (currently amended) The method of claim [80] 76 wherein the plurality of syringe bodies are formed from a polymeric resin.

Claim 88 (original) The method of claim 87 wherein the polymeric resin is a cyclic olefin copolymer.

Claim 89 (original) The method of claim 88 further comprising the step of weighing and inspecting the plurality of syringe bodies subsequent to forming the syringe body.

Claim 90 (currently amended) The method of claim [80] 76 further comprising the steps of providing a tip cap for each of the plurality of the syringe bodies and fixing the tip cap to an open tip end of each of the plurality of syringe body.

Claim 91(original) The method of claim 90 further comprising the steps of transferring a plurality of sterilized plungers into the sterile environment and inserting at least one of the plurality of plungers into an open end of each of the plurality of sterile syringe bodies subsequent to the introducing the fluid substance into the plurality of syringe bodies while the plurality of syringe bodies are within the sterile environment step wherein the fluid substance is sealed within the plurality of syringe bodies.

Claim 92 (original) The method of claim 91 further comprising the step of fixing a plunger rod to each plunger.

Claim 93 (currently amended) The method of claim [80] 76 further comprising the steps of transferring the sterilized plurality of syringe bodies from the sterile environment and resterilizing the plurality of syringe bodies subsequent to filling.

Claim 94 (original) The method of claim 93 further comprising the steps of labeling the plurality of syringe bodies and packaging the plurality of syringe bodies for delivery to an end user.

Claims 95 – 104 (canceled)